CITY OF CORVALLIS

COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

POLICY AREA 7 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

CP 95-7.12 Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management (IVPM) Program

Adopted August 21, 1995
Revised November 17, 1997
Revised March 6, 2000
Affirmed May 6, 2002
Affirmed May 17, 2004
Revised October 16, 2006
Affirmed May 19, 2008
Affirmed May 17, 2010
Revised October 1, 2012

7.12.010 Purpose

To establish guidelines to ensure an integrated approach to weed and pest control by the City of Corvallis.

7.12.020 Policy

To ensure that the City of Corvallis keeps on the cutting edge of environmentally responsible and cost-effective, sustainable vegetation and pest management techniques, the City shall:

a. Adopt and implement an Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management Plan (IVPM).

b. Encourage other agencies and organizations to incorporate the plan into their maintenance operations.

c. Initiate a public process every two years to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

d. Inform and educate the public about the City's IVPM activities.

7.12.030 Review and Update

The IVPM plan shall be reviewed and updated as appropriate every two years by the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Directors.

CITY OF CORVALLIS

INTEGRATED VEGETATION AND PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2006
UPDATED 2012

City of Corvallis
Parks and Recreation Department
1310 SW Avery Park Drive
Corvallis, OR 97333
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IVPM GUIDELINES

Introduction to the City of Corvallis Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management Plan

Goal: To keep Corvallis on the cutting edge of environmentally responsible, cost-effective sustainable vegetation and pest management techniques.

Elaboration of Goal:

This document establishes the principles of and guidelines for an integrated approach to weed and pest control by the City of Corvallis. Such an approach considers both the needs of the human-created systems and the needs of natural systems in which they occur. It is commonly referred to as integrated vegetation and pest management (IVPM) which can be defined as the following:

IVPM is a decision-making process for determining the need and timing for vegetation and pest management interventions and what strategy and mix of tactics to use. IVPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interactions with the environment. Interventions or treatments are not made according to a predetermined calendar schedule but are made when and where monitoring has indicated that the pest will cause unacceptable hazard to either people, property or the environment.

Offering a number of environmental and economic advantages, IVPM has been applied throughout the United States. For example, OVPM standards were published for the federal park system and implementation of IVPM practices were, in fact, mandated for certain state agencies by the 66th Oregon Legislative Assembly in the 1991 regular session (Senate Bill 262-ORS 634.122 as described in a March 1993 pamphlet published by the Interagency Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee). While the City of Corvallis does not fall under the requirements of the Oregon legislature, ecological considerations have helped push several of its programs in the IVPM direction. Adoption by city agencies of the coordinated IVPM approach outlined herein is to proactively address environmental, aesthetic, and safety concerns before they result in community polarization.

Weed and pest controls, per se, are only part of an IVPM; the sustainable concept recognizes the interaction between the various plant care programs and environmental factors that can synergistically lead to the development of sustainable Best Management Practices. For example, pest biology and ecology include such factors as pest identification, the life cycle, and in what stages it causes damage (e.g., is there a natural predator for this pest at some stage of its life?). As this IVPM approach phased in, chemical pesticide and herbicide use was reduced and the application of workable alternatives have increased without compromising the function of systems, maintenance standards, employee and public safety or cost efficiency. Alternatives include such things as competitive desirable vegetation, mulches, cultural practices such as irrigation, fertilization, and manipulation of pest habitat, mechanical and manual controls, physical barriers, water blasting, soap solutions, traps, and lures. New alternatives are continually being developed and it is an essential characteristic of a successful IVPM plan that it allow for experimentation and adoption of improved

methods that enhance sustainability objectives. In addition, the appropriateness of management actions is recognized to be context dependent and while the departments of the City of Corvallis share some similar management challenges, they also face unique ones. Accordingly, this document does not attempt to prescribe particular actions in the field but rather outline the IVPM principles and decision-making priorities that will promote achievement of our overall goal.

The success of an IVPM program depends strongly upon the individuals carrying it out. The commitment of the personnel involved and the adaptability of the IVPM program to new findings is to be facilitated by both a bottom-up as well as top-down education and communication protocol. Another essential component of the City of Corvallis IVPM plan is to coordinate the vegetation management efforts of the Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Fire Departments to assure consistency and to help share advancements, minimize maintenance requirements, and eliminate duplication of effort. Because of the potential of mutual impact and learning, this document seeks to encourage the regular interaction of Corvallis city departments and other public agencies engaged in vegetation management such as Benton County Public Works and Natural Areas and Parks Departments, schools (509-J) and OSU grounds maintenance. To assure that the Corvallis IVPM plan continues to evolve in a manner reflective of the values of this community, provisions have also been made for public education, regular review of public feedback, and bi-annual assessment by the Civic Beautification and Urban Forest Commission and participating agency member representatives.

The Decision Process

I. Set area categories based on:

   A. Uses (soccer field or nature hiking)
   B. Function (drainage or wetland)
   C. Aesthetics/expectations (urban park or rural picnic area)
   D. Special situations (For example: native wild flower areas, scenic areas, habitat preservation areas, sensitive plant communities, etc.)

II. Evaluate (for each category) which vegetation and pest situations should be considered problems requiring treatments.

   Reasons for treatment

   A. Public and employee safety and health (Examples: to prevent fire, maintain traffic visibility)
   B. Potential for irreversible damage or injury (Examples: damage to shoulders on roadways, holes in turf)
   C. Potential to increase or spread beyond tolerance levels (Examples: noxious weeds, poison plants)
   D. Loss of function (Examples: unable to use facilities because of excessive weeds/pests)
   E. Loss of investment (Examples: planting bed that is taken over by weeds or ruined by insects)
   F. Loss of aesthetics
   G. Sustainability

III. Set thresholds of acceptability for vegetation and pest problems within each area category by establishing the tolerable density of pest population, which may be set at zero, that can be correlated with a damage level sufficient to warrant treatment of the problem.

IV. Monitor for the presence of problem vegetation or pests.

V. Determine and rectify, if possible, the cause of the vegetation or pest problem (Example: poor plant health due to lack of nutrients or improper watering).

VI. Treat stubborn vegetation or pest problems to reduce populations below those levels established by damage thresholds using strategies that may include:

   A. Mechanical Controls–e.g., hoeing, roguing, mowing, cultivation, mulches, grazing
   B. Biological Controls–use of another living organism as a predator or parasite; e.g., BT (bacteria for larval control), Milky Spore, Cinnabar Moth for Tansy Ragwort, Parasitic Nematodes for Root Weevil.
   C. Cultural Practices–manipulating of a standard practice (crop rotation, burning, mowing, mulching, use of certified seed) to achieve pest population management; e.g., adjust mowing heights to reduce weed

seed in lawns.

D. Chemical Controls–e.g., herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fumigants.
E. Redesign Methods–the right plants, soil and sub soil preparation and/or constructions for the correct settings for the desired function.
F. Alternative Methods shall be evaluated based on the following criteria:
    1. Lowest non-target impact
    2. Operationally feasible and safe
    3. Cost effective
    4. Proven efficiency
    5. The desire to minimize the use of chemicals

VII. Evaluate the effects and efficiency of vegetation and pest treatments. Keep accurate records. Modify as necessary.

VIII. Internal Coordination: It is important that all agencies involved maintain open lines of communication to:

A. Continually review effective management practices;
B. Listen to and act on issues, problems and concerns associated with management practices;
C. Ensure that agencies are maintaining two-way communication with the public concerning issues.

IX. Inter-Agency Communication

A. Each agency should agree to cooperate via a Memorandum of Understanding.
B. Each agency should designate an individual within the agency or each department as their IVPM Coordinator to:
    1. Ensure that there is ongoing sharing of vegetation and pest management activities and information within departments and agencies via:
        a. Email
        b. Hot topic flyers
        c. Phone calls
    2. Ensure that vegetation and pest management activities are shared through their departments and agencies to policy makers.
C. All members of the group listed below shall participate in IVPM meetings, twice annually, to be hosted by the City Parks and Recreation Department to:
    1. Review guidelines and exchange information;
    2. Plan and ensure training for employees;
    3. Discuss IVPM issues
    4. Share highlights
    5. Review Federal and State regulations
D. Each agency/department should maintain records of chemicals and pest treatments applied in public areas.
E. Every two years, develop a public process to review the effects and effectiveness of the Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management

guidelines by the Civic Beautification and Urban Forest Commission and IVPM members.

X. Members

A. City of Corvallis
   1. Public Works
   2. Parks and Recreation Department
B. School District 509-J Landscape Maintenance Division
C. OSU Landscape Management
D. Benton County
   1. Natural Areas and Parks
   2. Public Works

XI. Public Information/Education

To ensure that the public is adequately informed regarding the integrated vegetation and pest management activities. The following methods are available and should be utilized:

A. Periodic reports of management activities through agency or other organizational newsletter, news releases, etc.
B. Inform the public in multiple ways of pest treatments:
   1. Notification through the chemical application phone number so citizens may call for detailed information on areas scheduled for chemical application;
   2. Post and date areas that have been treated with chemicals;
   3. Utilize FYI section of Gazette Times, local cable channel, and Internet when available to notify citizens as to when chemical applications are being made.
C. Educational features such as alternative methods of pest control, and high lighting pros and cons, as well as briefs regarding specific chemicals (their uses, toxicities, residual effects) that agencies commonly use, will be shared with the public via newsletters and other media.
D. Encourage citizens to participate and/or become informed by contacting a designated person within each department or agency for information.